

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE).

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DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 23, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2442. An act to provide for the preparation of a Government report detailing injustices suffered by Italian Americans during World War II, and a formal acknowledgment of such injustices by the President.

H.R. 3657. An act to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of public domain land in the San Bernardino National Forest in the State of California, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1854. An act to reform the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976.

S. 2406. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for entry into the United States of certain religious workers.

S. 2915. An act to make improvements in the operation and administration of the Federal courts, and for other purposes.

S. 2943. An act to authorize additional assistance for international malaria control, and to provide for coordination and consultation in providing assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 with respect to malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis.

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MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

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RUSSIAN ARMS SALES TO IRAN

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in both Chambers to press forward in getting to the truth in airing the facts behind the administration's deal with Moscow.

I ask my colleagues that sit on the relevant committees to investigate the administration and, of course, the Vice President's role in co-chairing the 1995 meeting with the Russian Prime Minister on the U.S.-Russian Binational Commission.

My colleagues, it is only through newspaper articles recently that we have hints of the administration's turning a blind eye concerning Moscow's arms sales to Iran. The White House has refused to provide a copy of the classified 1995 "aide-memoire" signed by Vice President GORE and Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin that stated the United States would not impose penalties on Moscow as required by U.S. law. The aide-memoire reveals an implicit agreement to ignore U.S. laws governing the U.S. response to arms sales to terrorist nations, including Iran.

Mr. Speaker, the law I am referring to is the Iran-Iraq Arms Nonproliferation Act that was passed in 1992, which requires sanctions against countries that sell advanced weaponry to countries the State Department classifies as state sponsors of terrorism. It is interesting that then-Senator GORE, along with Senator MCCAIN, authored this law, also known as the Gore-McCain Act. The law is rooted in concerns about Russian sales to Iraq of some of the most sophisticated weapons that the Gore-Chernomyrdin agreement explicitly allowed.

In 1995, an agreement signed by Vice President GORE and Russia's Prime Minister Chernomyrdin endorsed Russia's completion of sophisticated and advanced arms deliveries to Iran. The Vice President and the Russian Prime Minister mentioned an arms agreement in general terms at a news conference the day the agreement was signed, but the details have never been disclosed to Congress or the public.

The weapons Russia has committed to supply to Iran include one kiloclassed diesel-powered submarine, 160 T-72 tanks, 600 armored personnel carriers, numerous anti-ship mines, cluster bombs, and a variety of long-range guided torpedoes and other munitions for the submarine and tanks. Russia agreed to complete the sales by the end of 1999, and not to sell weapons to Iran other than the ones specified. Russia has already provided Iran with fighter aircraft and surface-to-air missiles.

The kilo-class submarine sold to Iran should be of particular concern to Congress and the American public because it can be hard to detect and could pose a threat to oil tankers or American war ships in the Gulf. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, Russia continues to be a significant supplier of conventional arms to Iran despite the Gore-Chernomyrdin deal, the Central Intelligence Agency reported in August.

Those working for the Vice President argue that the arms pact aided the U.S. because the submarine and tanks were not advanced weapons, as defined by the Pentagon; and, thus, the U.S. could

not have applied sanctions anyway. However, statements by the White House and the Vice President's office defending the policy of not sanctioning Russia was contradicted by a letter sent to Russia in January by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. The letter to Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov states that the United States would have imposed sanctions on Russia for its arms sales if there had been no 1995 agreement. "Without the aide-memoire, Russia's conventional arms sales to Iran would have been subject to sanctions based on various provisions of our laws."

Furthermore, Senator MCCAIN, one of the principal authors of the act said, "Clearly, the 1995 Gore-Chernomyrdin agreement was intended to evade sanctions imposed by the legislation written in 1992 by the Vice President and me." Furthermore, he went on to say, "If the administration acquiesced in the sale, then they have violated both the intent and the letter of the law."

Without the explicit act of Congress, the Vice President did not have the power or authority to commit the United States to ignore U.S. law. The Vice President's deal with Moscow gives the Russians not only the green light to violate our Nation's laws but encourages them to do so. The administration has already admitted that Russia has failed to meet its promise to end deliveries by December 1999 to Iran.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in both Chambers to properly investigate, find the truth, and I should say get to the bottom of our relationships with Russia.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

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□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) at 2 p.m.

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PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, Shepherd of souls, during this session of the 106th Congress many guest chaplains have led the House in prayer.

Today we wish to lift up these leaders and their faith communities across this country.

Their prayer for this nation and its government lingers in this room.

Bless them for their efforts to renew people in faith, hope, and love.

Inspire them as they preach and guide Your people in so many districts of this nation.

May they never lord it over those assigned to them, but instead, be examples of servant leadership to all in the flock.

And when Your glory is revealed, Chief Shepherd of us all, may Your leaders in faith and government receive the unfading crown of glory.

You live and reign now and forever. Amen.

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THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 20, 2000 at 9:32 a.m.

That the Senate agreed to House Amendment S. 2812.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2961.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4068.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4110.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4320.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4835.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5234.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 232.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 376.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 390.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

MARTHA C. MORRISON,
Deputy Clerk.

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SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE FOR OLDER AMERICANS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this Republican-led Congress has made great efforts in restoring fiscal accountability and responsibility to our budget process. Now paying off the debt puts people before politics and leaves us more resources to take care of those programs that really matter, especially for our older Americans.

Republicans want to use 90 percent of next year's surplus to pay off the national debt while locking away 100 percent of the social security and Medicare surpluses.

By running surpluses in social security and Medicare, we make certain that funds are available to reform these programs so that when baby boomers retire, they have the resources to take care of their retirement needs.

Mr. Speaker, the growing economy has handed us an enormous opportunity to lock away every penny of the social security and Medicare trust funds and to pay off the national debt. We have grabbed those opportunities to strengthen retirement security for every generation of Americans, and the Clinton-Gore administration would have us let those opportunities slip away. We cannot let them slip away.

Even last year when Republicans said we wanted to stop the 30-year raid on social security, President Clinton said it could not be done. But we proved it could be done, and now every dime paid into social security is walled off where it cannot be spent on bigger government programs.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

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COASTAL AND FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5086) to amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to honor Dr. Nancy Foster, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5086

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Coastal and Fisheries Improvement Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Amendment of National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Sec. 103. Changes in findings, purposes, and policies; establishment of system.

Sec. 104. Changes in definitions.

Sec. 105. Changes relating to sanctuary designation standards.

Sec. 106. Changes in procedures for sanctuary designation and implementation.

Sec. 107. Changes in activities prohibited.

Sec. 108. Changes in enforcement provisions.

Sec. 109. Additional regulations authority.

Sec. 110. Changes in research, monitoring, and education provisions.

Sec. 111. Changes in special use permit provisions.

Sec. 112. Changes in cooperative agreements provisions.

Sec. 113. Changes in provisions concerning destruction, loss, or injury.

Sec. 114. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 115. Changes in U.S.S. MONITOR provisions.

Sec. 116. Changes in advisory council provisions.

Sec. 117. Changes in the support enhancement provisions.

Sec. 118. Establishment of Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program.

Sec. 119. Clerical amendments.

TITLE II—MISCELLANEOUS FISHERY STATUTE REAUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 201. Marine fish program.

Sec. 202. Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 amendments.

Sec. 203. Anadromous Fish Conservation Act amendments.

TITLE III—REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

Sec. 301. Reimbursement of expenses.

TITLE IV—EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT OF 1967

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Extension of period for reimbursement under Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967.

TITLE V—YUKON RIVER SALMON

Sec. 501. Short title.

Sec. 502. Yukon River Salmon Panel.

Sec. 503. Advisory committee.

Sec. 504. Exemption.

Sec. 505. Authority and responsibility.

Sec. 506. Administrative matters.

Sec. 507. Yukon River salmon stock restoration and enhancement projects.

Sec. 508. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE VI—FISHERY INFORMATION ACQUISITION

Sec. 601. Short title.

Sec. 602. Acquisition of fishery survey vessels.

TITLE VII—ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES

Subtitle A—Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation

Sec. 701. Reauthorization of Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act.

Sec. 702. Population study of striped bass.

Subtitle B—Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management

Sec. 703. Short title.

Sec. 704. Reauthorization of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act.

TITLE VIII—PACIFIC SALMON RECOVERY

Sec. 801. Short title.

Sec. 802. Salmon conservation and salmon habitat restoration assistance.

Sec. 803. Receipt and use of assistance.

Sec. 804. Public participation.